

Astronaut Demographic Database: Everything you want to know about astronauts and more

Abstract

A wealth of information regarding the astronaut population is available that could be especially useful to researchers. However, until now, it has been difficult to obtain that information in a systematic way. Therefore, this “astronaut database” began as a way for researchers within the Behavioral Health and Performance Group to keep track of the ever growing astronaut corps population. Before our effort, compilation of such data could be found, but not in a way that was easily acquired or accessible. One would have to use internet search engines, read through lengthy and potentially inaccurate informational sites, or read through astronaut biographies compiled by NASA. Astronauts are a unique class of individuals and, by examining such information, which we dubbed “Demographics,” we hoped to find some commonalities that may be useful for other research areas and future research topics. By organizing the information pertaining to astronauts¹ in a formal, unified catalog, we believe we have made the information more easily accessible, readily useable, and user friendly. Our end goal is to provide this database to others as a highly functional resource within the research community. Perhaps the database can eventually be an official, published document for researchers to gain full access.

¹ The astronaut population we have included in our demographic database includes U.S. astronauts, cosmonauts, international astronauts, payload specialists, retired/former astronauts, and space flight participants.